

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 36973 01 OF 02 141833Z
ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 SS-15 /037 W
----- 126296 /50 45
P 141819Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7983
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 36973

DEPARTMENT PASS CU/IVP/V AND EUR/WE

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC FR
SUBJ: VOLUNTARY VISITOR: OLIVIER GISCARD D'ESTAING

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN APPROACHED FOR ASSISTANCE BY TWO PRESTIGIOUS FRENCH ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE JOINTLY PLANNING ONE-DAY COLLOQUIUM IN PARIS END OF FEBRUARY ON THE SUBJECT OF "THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION AND EUROPE." ORGANIZATIONS ARE THE "CERCLE DE L'OPINION" AND THE "FRENCH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ATLANTIC COMMUNITY." LATTER IS FRENCH BRANCH OF THE ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION. CERCLE DE L'OPINION IS FINANCED BY PRIVATE MEMBERSHIP, MOSTLY BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS, FOR PURPOSE OF PROMOTING PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES. LUNCHEON AND DINNER DEBATES SPONSORED BY CERCLE DE L'OPINION CONSISTENTLY DRAW MOST IMPORTANT FRENCH LEADERS FROM GOVERNMENT, THE ECONOMY AND ACADEMIC COMMUNITIES. IN ADDITION TO PUBLIC INTEREST IN ATTITUDE OF CARTER ADMINISTRATION TOWARD EUROPE, PURPOSE OF COLLOQUIUM IS TO PROMOTE A CONTINUITY OF THE US-EUROPE DIALOGUE INTO THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. MR. DUCHASTAIN INFORMS US THAT MR. ROY JENKINS, THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, HAS AGREED TO PARTICIPATE.

2. IN ORDER TO MAKE APPROPRIATE CONTACTS AND ARRANGE US PARTICIPATION IN COLLOQUIUM, TWO OFFICIALS OF SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS ARE PLANNING TO VISIT THE US
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JANUARY 4 AND 5. THEY ARE OLIVIER GISCARD D'ESTAING,

BROTHER OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENT, AND GABRIEL DU CHASTAIN, PRESIDENT OF THE CERCLE DE L'OPINION. OLIVIER GISCARD D'ESTAING IS AN OFFICIAL OF BOTH ORGANIZATIONS. HE IS ACTIVE IN A NUMBER OF BUSINESS-ORIENTED ENTERPRISES AND HOLDS THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN LEAGUE FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND THE EUROPEAN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. HE SPENDS A LOT OF TIME TRAVELING ABROAD FOR THE PROMOTION OF FRENCH EXPORTS AND HAS FREQUENT CONTACTS WITH FOREIGN POLITICAL LEADERS.

3. MESSRS GISCARD D'ESTAING AND DU CHASTAIN WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN MAKING APPROPRIATE CONTACTS WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S ORGANIZATION TO DETERMINE IF SUPPORT CAN BE PROVIDED FOR THIS COLLOQUIUM. BOTH GISCARD D'ESTAING AND

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P 141819Z DEC 76
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DU CHASTAIN SPEAK EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND WOULD NOT NEED AN INTERPRETOR. THEY WILL COMMUNICATE HOTEL AND FLIGHT INFO BEFORE DEPARTURE FROM PARIS. MR. DU CHASTAIN HAS INFORMED US THAT FINANCING WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS IN COLLOQUIUM.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS: THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE COLLOQUIUM GUARANTEES MAJOR EXPOSURE TO FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION. US PARTICIPATION WOULD THEREFORE BE

DESIRABLE. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT S/CL CONSIDER DESIGNATION OF ONE OR MORE APPROPRIATE FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESMEN TO PARTICIPATE. IN VIEW OF FINANCING PROBLEM, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT THE FRENCH-AMERICAN FOUNDATION BE CONTACTED TO DETERMINE IF THERE IS ANY INTEREST IN PROVIDING APPROPRIATE SUPPORT. FINALLY, IN VIEW OF OLIVIER GISCARD D'ESTAING'S RELATIONSHIP TO PRESIDENT AND HIS IMPORTANT ROLE IN FRENCH BUSINESS COMMUNITY, THAT HE BE RECEIVED AT HIGH LEVELS IN DEPARTMENT AND CARTER TRANSITION ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING A CALL ON SENATOR MONDALE IF POSSIBLE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED:

(A) DEPARTMENT'S ADVICE AS TO PROGRAM OF CONTACTS THAT MIGHT BE ARRANGED FOR JANUARY 4 AND 5 VISIT.

(B) DEPARTMENT CONTACT WITH THE FRENCH-AMERICAN FOUNDATION REGARDING FINANCING OF US PARTICIPATION IN COLLOQUIUM.

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(C) HIGH LEVEL CONTACTS FOR MR. OLIVIER GISCARD D'ESTAING IN DEPARTMENT AND CARTER TRANSITION ORGANIZATION.

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